



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,889	10/21/2005	Louis T. Klauder Jr	SHAPES2	9566
7590 09/11/2008				
Gary M Cohen				
Strafford Building Number Three				
Suite 300				
125 Strafford Avenue				
Wayne, PA 19087-3318				
		EXAMINER		
		MC'CARRY JR, ROBERT J		
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3617		
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		09/11/2008		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/553,889

Applicant(s)

KLAUDER JR, LOUIS T.

Examiner

ROBERT J. MCCARRY JR

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF 298)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/17/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the drawings do not adequately show the various shapes used for the railroad track turnout. It is unclear if the drawings are showing specific rails and switches or if they are an attempt at graphing the various types of elevations and curves.

Figures 9 and 12 are stated as showing switch arrangements for the claimed invention. No reference numerals are used in the drawings to show the various components associated with the switches.

Figures 1 and 2 are stated as depicting the geometry and super elevation of a Bend. It is unclear as to where in the drawing this relates to the railroad turnout.

Figures 3 and 4 are stated as depicting the geometry and super elevation of a Jog. It is unclear as to where in the drawing this relates to the railroad turnout.

Figure 10 is objected to for including text and what appears to be colored shading for various parts. Parts should be indicated using only numerals listed in the specification and should only be simple black and white figures free of any colored shading or indicators.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure

is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-7 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claims 4-7 each list that the turnout is comprised of a shape that has already been listed in claim 1. The dependent claims do not further show any other features of the turnout or the shape.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites a curved path of a railroad track comprising "a combination of a defined super elevation as a function of distance along a turnout track and an inferred horizontal curvature as a function of distance along the turnout track."

It is unclear to the Examiner as to how the super elevation and the horizontal curvature of the turnout track is a function of the distance of the track. It is further unclear as to how the super elevation and the horizontal curvature are different from one another.

Claim 1 recites that the "curved path has a shape selected from the group of shapes consisting essentially of a K-spiral, a Bend, one half of a Jog and part of a Wiggle." It is unclear to the Examiner as to exactly what these shapes are and how they relate to a railroad track and curve. It is further unclear as to how a K shape and a spiral are associated. It is further unclear as to exactly what shape a Jog is in relation to a railroad track as well as "half a jog".

The above citations are merely exemplary and the Applicant is encouraged to review the claims for similar errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-11, as best understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (US 3,905,568).

Watanabe et al discloses a high speed turnout device for a switching track. The turnout is comprised of a super elevated section as shown in figure 3 and is further comprised of sections of movable rails and crossovers as shown in figure 5a and in further detail in figure 6a. The moveable rails are mounted on girders and move rails to form connections between main line tracks and branch line tracks. The girders move the rails of the switch points to open or close gaps in the rails to allow vehicles to move from the main line to the branch line and back. The movement of the girders and the rails are perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the rail. Locking devices are also provided to assure a tight connection between the switch points and to prevent any undesired movement of the switch points either before or during the passage of a vehicle.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tokuoka et al (US 6,257,494) discloses a base structure for a railroad turnout.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT J. MCCARRY JR whose telephone number is (571)272-6683. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joseph Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. Joseph Morano/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3617

/R. J. McCarry Jr./
Examiner, Art Unit 3617

RJM
September 4, 2008